





## THE CHINA MAIL.

2

**MEMOS. FOR TO-MORROW.**  
Shipping.  
5 p.m.—Dismantle leaves for Manila.  
Miscellaneous.  
Goods per *Odenburg* undelivered after this date subject to rent.

## General Memoranda.

THURSDAY, October 11—  
Noon.—Meeting of Shareholders of the Union Insurance Society of Canton, Ltd., at No. 1, Queen's Buildings.  
9 p.m.—Meeting of St. Mary Magdalene Chapter.  
FRIDAY, October 12—  
Goods per *Seymour* not cleared at 4 p.m. subject to rent.  
Goods per *Seymour* undelivered after 4 p.m. this date subject to rent.  
MONDAY, October 15—  
3 p.m.—Auction of Crown Land situated at Shau-Ki-Wan.  
3.15 p.m.—Auction of Crown Land situated at Shau-Ki-Wan Road.  
Goods per *Sydney* undelivered before noon, subject to rent.  
Goods per *Alva* not cleared after this date subject to rent.  
SATURDAY, October 13—  
Noon.—Meeting of Shareholders of the Canton Insurance Office, Ltd.  
WEDNESDAY, October 17—  
Final Call of 50 Cents on B. Shares of the Overseas Freehold Mines, Limited, due.  
TUESDAY, October 23—  
Noon.—Meeting of Shareholders of the China-Foreign Insurance Co., Ltd., at the Company's Office.  
THURSDAY, November 1—  
Second Call of \$3 per Share of the Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd., due.

## Opium Quotations.

HONGKONG, October 9, 1900.

New Pattern, cash, 979  
Old Pattern, cash, 990  
Old Pattern, credit, 810/800  
Allowance, 100, 11 catty  
Last Year, 840/800  
Allowance, 100, 11 catty  
Old Malva credit, 570/550  
Allowance, 100, 11 catty  
Persian, Only, cash, 11 catty  
Allowance, 100, 11 catty  
Persian, Paper tied, 880/800  
Allowance, 100, 11 catty

## Exchange.

HONGKONG, October 9, 1900.

On London, 2/10 1/2  
Bank Wire, 2/10 1/2  
On demand, 2/10 1/2  
30 days sight, 2/10 1/2  
4 months sight, 2/10 1/2  
Credits, 4, 2/10 1/2  
Documentary, 4 months sight, 2/10 1/2  
On Paris, 2/10 1/2  
On demand, 2/10 1/2  
Credits, 4 months sight, 2/10 1/2  
On Berlin-Dresden, 2/10 1/2  
On demand, 2/10 1/2  
Credits, 60 days sight, 2/10 1/2  
On Bombay, 150  
On demand, 150  
On Calcutta, 150  
On Singapore, 1 1/2 p.m.  
On Manila, 1 1/2 p.m.  
On Shanghai, 71  
30 days sight, (private paper), 72  
On Yokohama, 1 1/2 p.m.  
Gold-Leaf, 100 fine, (per tael), \$860.50  
Sovereigns (Bank's buying rate), \$9.50  
Silver (per oz.), \$29.74



**A. S. WATSON & CO.,**  
LIMITED.

WINE &amp; SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

RAINIER BEER.

PURE, SPARKLING.

INVIGORATING.

AND

HEALTHGIVING.

UNDOUBTEDLY THE BEST BEER THAT

HAS EVER BEEN BREWED IN AMERICA.

PRICE.

For Case of 6 dozen Pints.....\$13.50 net.

4 Quarts.....\$13.50 net.

Sole Agents for Hongkong and South

China:

**A. S. WATSON & Co.,**  
LIMITED.

Established A.D. 1841.

**BIRTHS.**  
On the 8th October, at 1, Cameron Terrace, Kowloon, the Wife of HARRY WILSON, of a Son.  
At Swatow, on 5th October, the Wife of JOHN M. DALZIEL, M.B., C.M., E. P. Mission, of a Son.

**MARRIAGES.**  
At St. Andrew's Cathedral, Singapore, on September 28, by the Ven. Archdeacon Perham, assisted by the Rev. W. H. C. Dunkley, ARTHUR BARKER to ANNE GENTREUB, daughter of Mr and Mrs Harry Adams.  
On September 29, at the Presbyterian Church, Singapore, by the Rev. Stephen S. Walker, M.A., ALICE MAUD, youngest daughter of the late John Brooksbank, of Liverpool, to JOHN WILLIAM, eldest son of John Haffenden, Singapore.

**DEATH.**  
At the European Hospital, Kuala Lumpur, on Sept. 28, FRANCIS BARTIST HICKS, Esq., of the West Country, Kaling. Aged 31.  
The publication of this issue commenced at 4.50 p.m.

**The China Mail.**  
HONGKONG, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1900.

**LOCAL AND GENERAL.**

**Notes by the Way.**  
A coal colic working at a steamer lying off Yantai yesterday, was accidentally drowned by slipping off a rope.  
During the week ended 6th October there were three cases of bubonic plague reported in the Colony. Each of the cases proved fatal.  
Lieutenant-Colonel Roghaid Oakes has been appointed to succeed Lieutenant-Colonel C. L. Casey, as commandant of the Royal Artillery at Singapore.  
H. H. The Maharajah of Gwalior was entertained to a tiffin at Government House to-day, at which there was a representative gathering of the leading Colonists.

The agitation against the employment of girls at the hotel bars in Rangoon, which started as a result of the suicide of one "unfortunate barmaid," has resulted in a Government order forbidding the employment of girls in this capacity in Burma.

Other than plague, the only cases of communicable disease reported in this Colony, during the past week, were four cases of enteric fever, of which one case proved fatal. This particular case was imported by a steamer from France.

The Maharaja of Gwalior's hospital ship which has been presented to the Government by this loyal prince for use in China, arrived here this morning from Calcutta. The vessel is named the *Quinton*, and is painted in a singular manner to the *Carthage*. The whole cost of her maintenance, including the pay of the establishment, will be borne by the Gwalior Durbar. The administrative staff of the ship are Lieutenant-Colonel A. M. Crofts and Major G. J. Conner, R.A.M.C. (Dangal), Captain C. M. Moore (Bombay), Lieutenant G. T. Tat, (Punjab).

**The Manila-Dagupan Railway.**  
The Manila-Dagupan Railway is a flourishing concern. The main line of the road is now handling an enormous business. The traffic in Government supplies and material alone is very heavy, and the local travel and shipping have already passed the highest water mark ever reached in the history of the line. Mr Horace B. Higgin, the General Manager of the line, is superintending the survey of the proposed line beyond Dagupan.

**Long Waits at the Magistracy.**  
Some weeks ago we commented on the fact of several Sanitary Board prosecutions being discharged, at the Magistracy, on account of the absence of the prosecuting officer. It is a credit indeed to the patience of the officers (Inspectors of Police included) that there are not more discharges. Frequently an officer has to hang around the unsavory precincts of the Magistracy for two or three hours, for a very paltry case, and then, very often, the Court is adjourned for five and they are left to come back in the afternoon. It might happen that the officer has some important duties on hand and cannot find time to attend to it and the Court back; neither have they time to communicate to the Magistrate the reason for their absence. They are therefore to be excused if they let the Court cases slip occasionally. What is wanted is another Magistrate to dispose of a share of the work. Mr Hazeland is a very hard worker, and an earnest Magistrate, but he seems to be getting too much to do. It would relieve the congestion greatly, and it would also permit of Inspectors deposing more personal attention to their manifold duties, were a permanent junior magistrate appointed. It is to be hoped, in the interests of all who have business at the Magistracy, that this question will be considered seriously by those in authority.

Nothing finer in Violet perfumes has ever been produced than  
**Stearns' Ostrina Violette.**  
Fragrant, delicate and lasting. Wholesale from and Retail at A. S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Hongkong.

**Drinking.** "Peachy Skin on Ladies' Cheeks can be had only from good Blood. Postum Cereal Food Co. makes red Blood.—For Sale at Mutual St. Ores, H. RUTHERFORD and H. Tai.

**FOR** sprains, swellings and lacerations there is nothing so good as Chamberlain's Pain Balm. Try it. For sale by ALL Dealers, W. K. & Co., General Agents.

**LOCAL AND GENERAL.**  
**The Disabled 'Yangtse.'**  
The disabled China Mutual steamer *Yangtse* at the Nicobar Islands, was towed thence by a Dutch gunboat from Sabang Bay, where the Third Officer went with news of the vessel. From Sabang the *Yangtse* was towed to Singapore either by the *Tenikai* or by the local steam-tug *Mercury*.

**Marchand of Fashoda.**  
Lieut.-Colonel Marchand, who passed through here on Sunday by the M.M. Co. steamer *Sydney*, has come to China to represent France on the international commission composed of officers entrusted with the settlement of diplomatic questions and any difficulties arising between the different portions of the foreign corps.

**Polo at Singapore.**  
The Officers of the 'King's Own' Regiment, lately at Singapore and now at home, have sent to the Secretary of the Polo Club a very handsome silver cup as a Challenge Cup to be played for each year. The trophy is very artistically designed by the Goldsmiths' Company, and is given with the Regiment's best wishes for the prosperity of the game in Singapore.

**New Steamer for the Formosa Run.**  
The new steamer *Taijin Maru*, built by the Kawasaki Dockyard for the trade of the Osaka Shosen Kaisha, between Hongkong and Tamsui, was launched on September 29. Her dimensions are as follows: length (between perpendiculars) 245 feet; beam, 34 feet; depth, 23 feet; and water draught 16 feet. The gross tonnage is 1000 and the horse-power of the triple expansion engines 2,000. She has been built of steel, will be single screw, and will make a speed of 12½. The boiler is of the double-ended type with pressure of 180 lbs. to the square inch. She is expected to be on the run this month.

**Loss of a Sailing Ship.**  
The sailing ship *Arante* has arrived at Manila from Subic, bringing four Chinese sailors of the British barque *Water King*, which was wrecked on August 10 on the coast of Zamboanga. The captain and chief mate, both Englishmen, were drowned, together with eight Chinese sailors. The four survivors escaped in one of the vessel's boats by which they reached the town of Zamboanga. They were captured by the insurgents, but were subsequently handed over to the American authorities at Subic who sent them to Manila. The barque *Water King* was consigned to Mr Henry Spitz of Manila, and was on a voyage from Hongkong when she met her fate.

**An Open Field.**  
Captain Mostyn Field, of H.M.S. *Albatross*, is wanted at Colombo to answer the pleadings of Mr Dababloy Nusservanjan, who is suing for the recovery of £75,000, alleged damages sustained by the reason of the plaintiff's forcible detention by defendant on board the man-of-war named during the late disturbances in the Maldives Islands. When the case was called, however, Mr H. Van-Cuylenburg, the Crown Prosecutor, stated that Captain Field was on duty in China, and could not appear before November. He therefore begged a postponement of two months, when he promised to file proxy and answer.

**Chinese Soldier in Custody.**  
Sergeant MacSwaney arrested a real Chinese soldier last night, on the Praya, near the Central Market, on a charge of theft. The "brave" was in full uniform, blue jacket with red shoulders and facings, and a white target vest or breast plate. He must be a deserter or a straggler from the Chinese Army, and his appearance would indicate that he had travelled a long distance. It is suggested that he has come in a commandeered junk or other boat. He had a very raw and hungry appearance. He went along the street until he came to a baker's shop where there were exposed for sale a number of loaves of bread. Walking quite calmly into the shop he annexed a three pounds' loaf. The shopkeeper failed to see through this, but the man, indicating that he was a soldier by pointing to the uniform, walked away taking the loaf with him. The shopkeeper seized hold of his unwelcome customer and gave him over to the custody of the Sergeant who was not a long way off. The soldier, grateful for all he was worth, and a great crowd of Chinese followed the pair to the Central Station, doubtless surprised at the audacity of looking up one of the Imperial soldiers for merely helping himself. It is supposed that the uniform is that of the soldiers of the Boguo forts, but as the prisoner speaks a strange dialect it has not been possible to learn anything about his history with any certainty. The case was remanded till to-morrow.

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## TELEGRAMS.

[REUTERS' SERVICE.]  
**THE ELECTIONS.**  
LONDON, 7th October.  
322 Unionists, 91 Liberals and 64 Nationalists have been returned to date.

**PROBABLE RESIGNATION OF LORD SALISBURY.**  
Mr Herbert Gladstone, speaking at Ayr, said that it was expected Lord Salisbury would resign before next year was over and Mr Chamberlain would then be able to dictate his own terms.

**LOCAL AND GENERAL.**  
**A Query.**  
At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Thursday next Mr Osborne will move:—  
'That the Government be asked to inform the Board why the Refuse Destructor, which was unanimously recommended by the Board and sanctioned by His Excellency the Governor in June 1899, has not been included in the Estimates of Public Works Extraordinary for next year.'

**Colombo's Defences.**  
There is apparently little cause for Navy League agitation at Colombo. A local paper says:—'The improved defences of Colombo are now in a fair way towards completion, and, with the conclusion of the building of the two new batteries at the Rock House premises, Mutwal, and below the Pilot Tower in the Fort, and the mounting of the new breech-loading guns got out recently from England in place of the old muzzle-loaders, the defence of the port may be considered to be adequate.'

**More Authority Wanted.**  
At the meeting of the Sanitary Board on Thursday next, Dr Clark will move, 'That the Governor in Council be requested to give general authority to the Sanitary Board to modify at their discretion the requirements of section 7 of the Sanitary Properties Ordinance, 1899, in the case of corner houses abutting on two public streets of a width of not less than fifteen feet each, provided that window area and proper arrangements as to drainage shall have been provided to the satisfaction of the Board in every such case.'

**R. E. Concert.**  
Last night, a successful concert was given by the 'Royal Engineers' Variety Club, at the R. E. Theatre, Wellington Barracks. There was a very good attendance and the long and varied musical programme was gone through. The first part consisted entirely of popular and patriotic songs by old favourites, with rollicking choruses, which were heartily taken up by the audience. The second part consisted of a highly amusing two-act farce entitled 'Woodcock's Little Game'. The band of the Royal Welch Fusiliers contributed to the pleasure of the audience by rendering several pretty selections.

**A Water Wail from the Peak.**  
The Government seem to be getting it fairly hot just now as regards the supply of water for the Colony. The Kowloon water supply is still on the boards, and to keep it company the question of defective supply to the Peak is to be introduced. The following motion will be made at the Sanitary Board meeting on Thursday by Mr J. McKie, viz:—  
'That the Government be asked to state what steps are being taken to provide pumping apparatus of a sufficiently effective description to prevent a repetition of the great inconvenience caused to Peak residents on the higher levels during the last fourteen days by the failure of the water service and the danger thereby caused by the said residents having to resort to their supplies of drinking water, to wells that are filled from very dubious sources.'

**Hard Luck on the Lovers.**  
Yesterday, a Chinese girl visited the Central Police Station and said she wanted protection. A certain woman near where she lived wished to take her to Canton for an immoral purpose. She was told that, as she was twenty years of age, she was quite fit to resist the woman's wishes, and that she need not go unless she liked. She then left. This morning she and the woman were arrested for creating a row in Hollywood Road. It seems that, following out the police instructions, she told the woman she would not go to Canton. High words ensued and a crowd of 400 people collected. A Chinese constable came on the scene and took both women to the Station. At the Magistracy today, they were each fined \$1, with the alternative of fourteen days' imprisonment. 'There is a sequel to the tale. The girl's lover, when he saw his sweetheart being taken away by the police, attempted a rescue. He rushed after them and seizing the girl by the hand tried to pull her away. He was fined \$10, with the alternative of three weeks' imprisonment.

**WEATHER REPORT.**  
The following notice is issued from the Observatory:  
On the 9th at 11.55 a.m. The barometer has fallen at Sharp Peak, probably owing to the advance of a depression over the North Sea. The Cloud Sea depression has probably entered Annam. Fresh monsoon in the N. part of the China Sea. Forecast: moderate E and SE winds; showery.

**THE CHINA CRISIS.**  
Since I last wrote, there has been wonderfully little change in the situation in China. To the relief of all, the Peking outrage was not so disastrous to the foreign residents as the first alarmist reports from Shanghai led us to believe, and coupled with this the threatened spread of anarchy to Central and South China, albeit there have been isolated cases of disorder and anti-foreign outrages, has not, as yet become an accomplished fact. Let us hope that common sense will assert its sway among the Chinese people, and that they will be brought to see that the amelioration of their unhappy lot cannot be achieved by outrages and insults heaped upon the foreigners resident among them. Rather, it is their own officials and the incoherent condition of their own Central Government that are responsible for whatever there is to condemn in their social or political systems.

As everyone possessed of a knowledge of China predicted, the military operations in the region of Peking and Peking were successful as soon as the allied forces got under way. Better armed though they are, the Chinese have not the discipline nor the staying power to render them the serious menace to Western civilisation that many writers would have us believe. The foreign troops are in Peking, the Legations are rescued from their precarious position after a heroic defence that will live in history, the Chinese Court has fled, its army scattered; and now the Powers are left with a new development of the China question upon their hands. How they are to deal with it none but the engineers would undertake to forecast; but you in Hongkong will be pleased to learn that the unanimous expression of alarm which has been cable to this country from the foreign communities in China at the prospect of the withdrawal of the troops from Peking, as proposed by Russia, is having its effect on public opinion in England and elsewhere. To so withdraw before some form of settled and responsible government is established in Peking would be fatal to the present moment. The Chinese would undoubtedly regard such a proceeding as a sign of weakness. Most of them are incapable of understanding the subtle political reasons which alone could justify the evacuation of Peking now, and the very fact that the people of Central and South China still believe the officially disseminated stories that the allies have been defeated in the north ought to be sufficient to weigh with the Powers in adopting a new policy towards China, which will impress the people for all time with the power and prestige of the Western nations. This need not imply the weakening of vengeance upon an ignorant and official-ridden people. Equally effective will be to allow our interference in internal Chinese affairs to follow a beneficent course. That, I presume, is the desire of the foreigners now resident in China. They would like to see the country ruled according to the principles that underlie the modern civilisation of the West. Until this is done, until the Powers, by friendly pressure, have induced the Chinese to establish a reformed Government under which the country will become more than ever, open to the world's commerce, and thereby bring about a much-desired change in the social condition of the working people of China, it is to be hoped no step will be taken by the British Government to withdraw its troops from the Chinese capital.

At present, it is not easy to understand why Russia should propose a withdrawal of the foreign troops, or why she should promise voluntarily to withdraw from Newchwang and Manchuria. This is her opportunity. She has been awaiting the inevitable outbreak to possess herself of Manchuria. Now it has come, why should she offer to give up the advantages her troops have won for her after hard fighting? Is it that she hopes to gain more at a future time by holding her hand at present and creating an impression in the Chinese that she is the other Power to withdraw? Or is it because the French, annoyed at the prospect of a German field marshal controlling the allied troops (including a possible French contingent) have brought pressure to bear upon the Government on the banks of the Neva? Time will show.

But will the Powers agree to withdraw? I have already expressed the hope that they will not. It is easy to understand that the United States might agree to this move. The McKinley Administration has apparently come to the end of its imperialism, and would willingly 'budge' if thereby it could please the electrifying 'hoses' and 'caneuses' that are the bane of American politicians. But the United States, I do not believe any of the other Powers will accede to the Russian proposition. News from Washington creates a hope that President McKinley and his counsellors intend to stick to their guns, and that, having meddled so far in Chinese politics as to obtain an international pledge in favour of the 'open door,' they will follow up the policy which their right to extract such a pledge seemed to imply. They are an irresponsible quality, however, and for your opinion on that the United States will be a useless factor in the China

question until after the Presidential election. Dealing with other Powers, it might be said at once that prophecy is unsafe. What Great Britain may do no one seems to know. We have had bitter experience of so many shortcomings in the past that we have almost ceased to expect Lord Salisbury to do the right thing. It is even within the bounds of possibility that he will agree to Russia's proposals. With Russia and Great Britain agreeing a few years ago, the policy towards China would have been assured. But, for one, I am glad that there is a newer and no less important Power to be considered. Germany is a coming factor in the Far East—if not so already. Germany is spreading her influence across the seas—by the enterprises of her commercial and shipping houses, and the prestige of her army, and we have the assurance of her Emperor that where once the German flag has been planted it will never again be furled. Germany has come to stay in China, and, depend upon it, she will be chiefly responsible for a change of policy by the Western Powers towards China. If China is at last to be thrown upon to foreign trade as we British people desire it, and as it never has been in the past, it will be due to German pressure upon the Chinese Government.

I think we may take it that Germany will not agree to the Russian proposals. The case of Germany is somewhat different from that of the other Powers, and whether Count von Waldersee, will ever control the allied armies, or not, Germany will pursue her own policy irrespective of French, Russian, English or American public opinion. Putting Manchuria aside, much of the recent disturbance has been contiguous to the German sphere of influence. Her Minister suffered death in the Chinese capital, and his body was subjected to indignities which no self-respecting country would allow to pass without severe punishment. Emperor William has been more outspoken than the representatives of any of the other civilised governments, and it is safe to assume that his declaration to avenge the death of his Minister, and the violation of the emblems of civilised international intercourse was no empty threat. Assuming, then, that Germany will not be a party to the 'scuttie' policy, the political situation in China presents boundless possibilities. Beyond this vague generalisation I will not go at present.

**THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR.**  
There is an old proverb that 'He conquers twice, who restrains himself in victory.' Like most proverbs, it does not meet every case, and we have had an example of this in South Africa. The Boer seems incapable of the Chinaman of understanding the Christian feeling that prompts magnanimity. Lord Roberts tried it, and it failed. He has now resorted to strong measures, with the result that the Boers are beginning to see that treachery does not pay—in the long run. The war has dragged on longer than most of us expected, but it is nearing its close; and before this letter can reach you we all hope to learn that Kruger and Steyn are in safe custody or have followed their consignments of gold overseas. It is generally believed that the British Government would be relieved to know that both the ex-Presidents had escaped.

It is satisfactory to note that the loyal section of the Cape Government predominates, and with the rebel Dutch disfranchised for a term of years—a lenient enough punishment for the mischief they have wrought—there should be a likelihood of a speedy settlement of Cape Colony and the annexed territory. The British people did not seek the annexation, 'at least Kruger's impudent ultimatum, the invasion of British territory, the unalloyed hostility of the Orange Free State, the great loss of life and heavy expenditure forced upon this country, it was impossible, looking to the peace of South Africa and the maintenance of our predominance there, to avoid annexation. Now that Lord Roberts' task is nearly at an end, there is talk of his succeeding Lord Wolseley as Commander-in-Chief of the British army. Needless to-day such an appointment would be extremely popular, and it would form a fitting reward for the devoted services rendered by our most brilliant general to his Queen and country.

**THE PLAGUE.**  
The good people of Glasgow are much perturbed about the appearance of bubonic plague in their midst. This well-governed Scottish city has grappled valiantly with its lawful visitor, and I have no doubt will soon eradicate the disease. How it came to find doctors tell. No one knows with any degree of certainty, but it is supposed to have been carried by shipboard rats from some distant port—probably from the Mediterranean. The Sanitary Authorities are adopting the sensible precaution of cremating the bodies of the victims—a course that should have been followed in Hongkong in its great epidemics of 1894 and 1896. The James Cantile went down to Glasgow to give the authorities the benefit of his personal advice and experience of the plague in Hongkong.

**DE RENTIER AND REFORM IN CHINA.**  
I met the genial doctor the other day, and found him as energetic and full of ideas as ever. He has been down in Scotland, salmon fishing and lecturing on China. He has also been interviewed by a Scottish newspaper, and delivered himself of some sharp remarks on 'the flowery land.' He thinks Sun Yat-sen has lost an opportunity of helping the Reform cause in China, by not offering his services to the allies at the present juncture. Dr Cantile may be right, but I do not suppose the allies would have committed themselves by accepting aid from either section of the Reform Party. Sun Yat-sen's party is too closely connected with the secret societies and too bloodthirsty to win the support of the Powers; on the other hand, the general opinion among foreigners is that Kang Yu-wei's party was too violently revolutionary to carry with it the masses of the Chinese people. That is the official attitude. For my part, I would put Dr Cantile's protégé aside in favour of the young Confucius, for I am convinced the opposition to modern innovation exists chiefly among the official and expectant official classes, and that as soon as the scope and purpose of Kang Yu-wei's propositions were understood they would be gladly welcomed and put into practice by the masses of the people.

**THE NATALIAN.**  
China is receiving more attention in the American than in the English magazines this month. *The North American Review* opens its columns to the most divergent views on the 'crisis,' giving the place of honour to Mr John Barrett, whose connection with Bangkok and the Far East generally has established him, in editorial eyes, as an authority on Oriental subjects. Mr Barrett is an American of the Americans, as cultured and courteous as he is fluent and fervent. In his opinion America is the arbiter of the affairs of the world; and as he claims for her predominant interests in Manchuria—a somewhat startling assumption, it may seem to some of you—he urges a strong policy by the present Administration. One of the best reasons of the seven or eight articles on China is that of Lieut. Craydon Bellairs, R.N., formerly in charge of the Torpedo Depot in Hongkong. It shows careful reading of the recognised authorities on the China question. Inidentally, he mentions the housing difficulty in Hongkong as set forth in the columns of the *China Mail*. Mr Demetrius C. Boulger is another contributor, and having adopted the view that China must be partitioned he returns to his guns and fires off some of the old arguments with which he has made us familiar.

It is a curious fact, but a fact none the less, that while the magazine editors think the China question fit subject for discussion in their pages, the general public are not reading books on China. So the librarian of a large provincial town informs me. I confess that this statement surprised me, for every week sees some new book on China. Mr A. R. Colquhoun's books are in demand, however, and a series of informing articles from his pen are evidently appreciated by provincial editors.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**  
I hear that your Colonial Secretary, Mr J. H. Stewart Lockhart, has been recalled, by telegram, to resume his duties in Hongkong. He has been spending part of his holiday in the north of Scotland in Dr George Macdonald's country.

Let me add my congratulations to the Hon. W. M. Goodison and Mr H. E. Pollock on the well-deserved honour conferred upon them by the Queen.

## LONDON LETTER.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)  
LONDON, September 7, 1900.  
THE CHINA CRISIS.

Since I last wrote, there has been wonderfully little change in the situation in China. To the relief of all, the Peking outrage was not so disastrous to the foreign residents as the first alarmist reports from Shanghai led us to believe, and coupled with this the threatened spread of anarchy to Central and South China, albeit there have been isolated cases of disorder and anti-foreign outrages, has not, as yet become an accomplished fact. Let us hope that common sense will assert its sway among the Chinese people, and that they will be brought to see that the amelioration of their unhappy lot cannot be achieved by outrages and insults heaped upon the foreigners resident among them. Rather, it is their own officials and the incoherent condition of their own Central Government that are responsible for whatever there is to condemn in their social or political systems.

As everyone possessed of a knowledge of China predicted, the military operations in the region of Peking and Peking were successful as soon as the allied forces got under way. Better armed though they are, the Chinese have not the discipline nor the staying power to render them the serious menace to Western civilisation that many writers would have us believe. The foreign troops are in Peking, the Legations are rescued from their precarious position after a heroic defence that will live in history, the Chinese Court has fled, its army scattered; and now the Powers are left with a new development of the China question upon their hands. How they are to deal with it none but the engineers would undertake to forecast; but you in Hongkong will be pleased to learn that the unanimous expression of alarm which has been cable to this country from the foreign communities in China at the prospect of the withdrawal of the troops from Peking, as proposed by Russia, is having its effect on public opinion in England and elsewhere. To so withdraw before some form of settled and responsible government is established in Peking would be fatal to the present moment. The Chinese would undoubtedly regard such a proceeding as a sign of weakness. Most of them are incapable of understanding the subtle political reasons which alone could justify the evacuation of Peking now, and the very fact that the people of Central and South China still believe the officially disseminated stories that the allies have been defeated in the north ought to be sufficient to weigh with the Powers in adopting a new policy towards China, which will impress the people for all time with the power and prestige of the Western nations. This need not imply the weakening of vengeance upon an ignorant and official-ridden people. Equally effective will be to allow our interference in internal Chinese affairs to follow a beneficent course. That, I presume, is the desire of the foreigners now resident in China. They would like to see the country ruled according to the principles that underlie the modern civilisation of the West. Until this is done, until the Powers, by friendly pressure, have induced the Chinese to establish a reformed Government under which the country will become more than ever, open to the world's commerce, and thereby bring about a much-desired change in the social condition of the working people of China, it is to be hoped no step will be taken by the British Government to withdraw its troops from the Chinese capital.

At present, it is not easy to understand why Russia should propose a withdrawal of the foreign troops, or why she should promise voluntarily to withdraw from Newchwang and Manchuria. This is her opportunity. She has been awaiting the inevitable outbreak to possess herself of Manchuria. Now it has come, why should she offer to give up the advantages her troops have won for her after hard fighting? Is it that she hopes to gain more at a future time by holding her hand at present and creating an impression in the Chinese that she is the other Power to withdraw? Or is it because the French, annoyed at the prospect of a German field marshal controlling the allied troops (including a possible French contingent) have brought pressure to bear upon the











